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BIENNIAL REPORT
OF
THE COLORADO STATE
RACING COMMISSION

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DENVER, COLORADO, DECEMBER 16, 1914.

HONORABLE ELIAS M. AMMONS,

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF COLORADO.

The Colorado State Racing Commission, as required by the Act of 1913, submits to you its first Biennial Report.

The enactment of the law creating the Racing Commission by the Legislature of 1913, is the first step taken by the State of Colorado for the protection of the great thoroughbred and standard bred horse interests of the State, and for the control of the race tracks and associations incorporated within its jurisdiction.

The law creating the Commission is as follows:

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. That for the purpose of promoting the breeding of horses in the State of Colorado, any association or corporation incorporated for the purpose of holding annual fairs or exhibitions of agricultural and industrial products and live stock, shall have the right and power, subject to the provisions of this Act, to hold one or more race meetings in each year, and to hold, maintain and conduct running, trotting, walking and pacing races at such meetings. At such meetings, the association or corporation, or the owners of the horses engaged in such races, or others, who are not participants in the racing, may contribute purses, prizes, premiums or stakes to be contested for; but no person, or persons, other than the owners of a horse or horses contesting in a race, shall have any pecuniary interest in a purse, prize, premium or stake contested for in such race, or be entitled to, or receive any portion thereof, after such race

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DIRECT GIFT/93-16 Continuation.

shall have been finished; and the whole of such purse, prize, premium or stake shall be allotted in accordance with the terms and conditions of such race. Such meetings shall not be held, except during the period from the first day of April to the first day of December, inclusive, in each year. No races are authorized, nor shall be permitted, except during the period aforesaid, nor except between sunrise and sunset.

SECTION 2. A State Racing Commission is hereby established, to consist of five persons, each of whom shall be an officer or director of some association or corporation organized for the purpose of giving exhibitions of agricultural, mining and industrial products and live stock; but no more than one shall be appointed from any one association or corporation. Within four months after the passage of this Act, the Governor shall appoint a State Racing Commission, consisting of five members, as herein provided; one member shall be appointed to serve for one year, one for two years, one for three years, one for four years, and one for five years, and annually thereafter the Governor shall appoint one member of said Commission to serve for the full term of five years. The members of such Commission shall serve without compensation. Such Commission shall appoint a Secretary, who shall serve during its pleasure, whose duties shall be such as the Commission may prescribe. He shall be paid a salary to be fixed by the Commission at a rate not exceeding Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) per annum, which shall be paid by the several fairs, industrial and live stock associations, or corporations holding race meetings as herein provided, the amounts to be paid by each to be apportioned by the Commission, which shall on or before the first day of December, in each year, assess upon each of said corporations or associations its just proportion of such salary.

The Commission shall biennially make a full report to the Governor of the State of Colorado, of its proceedings for the two year period, ending with the first day of December preced-

ing the meeting of the General Assembly of the State of Colorado.

SECTION 3. Said Commission shall have the power to prescribe the rules, regulations and conditions under which race meetings shall be conducted in this State, and no race meetings shall be conducted except by a corporation or association duly licensed by said Commission, as herein provided. Any corporation or association organized for the purpose of holding annual fairs or exhibitions of agricultural and industrial products and live stock, desiring to conduct a race meeting, shall apply annually to the State Racing Commission for a license to do so. If a proper case for the issuance of such license is shown, the Commission shall grant the same for a term of one year; and every such license shall contain a condition that all races or race meetings conducted thereunder shall be subject to the rules, regulations and conditions from time to time prescribed by the Commission, and shall be removable by the Commission for any violation thereof, or whenever the continuance of such license shall be deemed by the Commission not conducive to the interests of legitimate racing.

SECTION 4. All acts and parts of acts in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

By authority conferred upon the Governor, the following named gentlemen: Mr. J. A. Burnett, of Denver; Mr. J. L. Beaman, of Pueblo; Dr. A. P. Drew, of Grand Junction; Mr. D. L. Silver, of Lamar; and Dr. M. J. Dunleavy, of Denver—were appointed, constituting the State Racing Commission, of Colorado. The gentlemen above named met in Denver, Colorado, January 21, 1914, and organized by electing Mr. J. A. Burnett as President, Mr. D. L. Silver as Vice-President, and Mr. J. L. Beaman as Secretary and Treasurer.

The Commission adopted racing laws and rules, copy of which is hereto attached, which, in the opinion of the Commission, is complete, and an absolute protection for the public, owner, trainer and every one participating. In adopting these rules, the Commission followed very closely,

by permission (so far as they were applicable to Colorado) the rules of the State Racing Commission of Kentucky, which has been in existence for four years, and is beyond an experimental stage.

The Commission has received requests from the Government Library, at Washington, D. C., for extra copies, and from a great many state libraries and individuals; more than one hundred copies having been mailed.

Only a few years since, adverse legislation practically confiscated the thoroughbred interest of the United States. There was scarcely a state but had some ban on them; but now they race in many states, and as others understand the working of the racing commission, new fields will constantly be opened to them. The value of young thoroughbreds has advanced so rapidly that breeding is again profitable, and while it will take many years to put it on the high plane it had reached, still many are again entering the field.

During the year 1914, 20 licenses were granted to various fairs and racing associations throughout the State, as follows:

Colorado and New Mexico Fair Association,

Durango, Colorado—May 14, 15, 16.

Denver Fair and Racing Association,

Denver, Colorado—June 19 to July 4, inclusive.

Prowers County Fair Association,

Lamar, Colorado—August 19, 20, 21.

The Commercial Club,

Platteville, Colorado—August 22.

Bent County Fair Association,

Las Animas, Colorado—August 25, 26, 27, 28.

Longmont Chamber of Commerce,

Longmont, Colorado—August 27 and 28.

Arkansas Valley Fair Association,

Rocky Ford, Colorado—September 1, 2, 3, 4.

Larimer County Fairs Association,

Loveland, Colorado—September 1, 2, 3, 4.

- Saguache County Fair Association,
Saguache, Colorado—September 3, 4, 5.
- Farmers' and Stockmen's Fair Association,
Burlington, Colorado—September 2, 3, 4, 5.
- Crowley County Agricultural Fair Association,
Sugar City, Colorado—September 8, 9, 10, 11.
- Routt County Fair Association,
Hayden, Colorado—September 9, 10, 11.
- Del Norte Fair Association,
Del Norte, Colorado—September 10, 11, 12.
- Cheyenne County Fair Association,
Cheyenne Wells, Colorado—September 9, 10, 11, 12.
- Sedgwick County Fair Association,
Julesburg, Colorado—September 11, 12.
- The Colorado State Fair,
Pueblo, Colorado—September 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19.
- Lincoln County Agricultural Fair Association,
Hugo, Colorado—September 17, 18, 19.
- Alamosa County Fair Association,
Alamosa, Colorado—September 23, 24, 25.
- Western Slope Fair Association,
Montrose, Colorado—September 22, 23, 24.
- Grant County Fair Association,
Kremmling, Colorado—October 1, 2, 3, 4.

Every trainer of the thoroughbred, jockey, and starter, was licensed, so as to bring them under direct control of the Commission. The following licenses were issued:

Trainers' Licenses	107
Jockey Licenses	59
Starters' Licenses	7

Various associations were quite liberal with the amounts appropriated for their speed programme, the total purses for the State being \$75,000. Forty thousand dollars of this amount was given by The Denver Fair and Racing Association, of Denver, which attracted the better class of horse owners of the United States and Canada. Over 600 horses were shipped into our State and raced during the year. Two hundred and fifty were owned in this State, making a total of 850 horses that faced the barrier and responded to the word, "Go."

The associations have worked in perfect harmony with the Commission. In every case the local judges have carefully observed the rules, which, while severe, yet were careful and considerate of the public and the horsemen. As an illustration, there was not one appeal from their decisions, and not one word of scandal or criticism has been uttered by the public or by the press.

The Commission has had the co-operation of the State Administration, as well as of the various cities and counties throughout the State, while the press has given its entire support and devoted a great deal of space to the advantages of racing under a State Commission.

The Commission fully appreciates the work it has before it in putting Colorado back in the ranks where she belongs, from a breeding and racing standpoint. The public enjoys good horse racing, if conducted in a proper manner, as has been fully demonstrated the past season, as the attendance during the year of 1914 at the various meetings throughout the State has increased very materially, and the interest manifested is almost beyond description. This was particularly noticeable in the City of Denver, the races being patronized by the best citizens of the city and State.

The heavy draft horse is the most advanced in regard to pure blood. The Percheron breed predominates, from the fact that the farmers find that strain more useful as an all-purpose horse. The Colorado horse breeders are very fortunate in this particular blood, as the champion two-year-old Percheron of the world is owned in Colorado. This is the Percheron Stallion, "Champagne." He won the Gold Medal at the Royal Stock Show at London, England, and again the Medal at our International, at Chicago, Ill. He was imported by J. W. Crough & Son, Lafayette, Ind.,

and purchased by Mr. A. J. Zang, of Denver, Colo., and is on his ranch at Broomfield, Colo. In the past ten years there has been purchased by Colorado breeders a great many full-blooded Belgians, Clydesdales, Suffolk Punch, and, in fact, all of the heavy breeds.

In regard to the standard bred horse, Colorado has taken an enviable place, and any one who visited the various fairs throughout the State this year must have been surprised at the number of standard bred horses that were bred in Colorado. In this connection we might say that the champion three and four year old pacer of the world was bred in Colorado, by Mr. J. M. Herbert, at Sullivan, Colorado. Also the great trotter, "Tommy Horn," was bred by Mr. J. A. Osner, of Denver, Colorado. This horse became a champion by trotting the fastest seventh heat in a race.

Throughout Colorado there are many breeding ranches of national prominence, where the standard bred are recognized as equal to those of any of our sister states. We would briefly mention the larger ones, such as those of Mr. A. G. Gumaer, of Florence, Colo.; Doll Bros., of Gypsum, Colo.; Mr. A. Camp, of Greeley, Colo., and many others; in fact, there is scarcely any city or town but has one or more standard bred stallions or mares.

The next great breed in Colorado is the thoroughbred; but in this blood we are lacking, and until very recently, there were not many breeders. However, in the last two or three years there has been quite a few thoroughbred stallions and mares purchased by Colorado horsemen. We have possibly one of the finest types of the thoroughbred horse in America owned at Rocky Ford, Colorado—"Fayette," the son of the great "Ogden" and "Saratoga Belle," and this year some of his sons and daughters were seen at our races. Also the great thoroughbred, "Skillful," is owned at Greeley, and Mrs. K. Williams, of Hayden, Colorado, recently purchased the thoroughbred stallion, "Labold," so what we lack in quantity we make up for in quality.

In the breeding of the thoroughbred horse there is something more involved than merely racing upon the turf. It is a matter of military import, not to be wholly overlooked nor hastily dismissed as being impracticable or unimportant. Men who are familiar with the history of the Civil War

in America know that for the first three years of the war the Federal troops never won a single cavalry engagement. And why? Because they were mounted on horses wholly unfit for cavalry service—horses bred in the Northern States, where people rode behind their horses instead of astride them. In the last year, the Federal Government managed to get hold of a few hundred thoroughbred geldings, and then the tide of the battle turned. But the victories of the Southern cavalry were wholly due to the fact that up to the outbreak of the war they used nothing but thoroughbred sires for all purposes, and that the light harness horses were unknown in the South, save in the State of Kentucky, and there in only about four counties. The blood of all sorts of turf celebrities flowed in the veins of nine out of ten horses that carried the men in the uniform of gray. It was no wonder, therefore, that the message of McClellan to the effect that "Pleasanton, with his cavalry, is in full pursuit of the enemy," became a source of infinite merriment to those who knew anything about horses. They knew that after the first hour's pursuit was over, the southern horses would gallop ten miles in less time than the Federal cavalry could cover seven, and as long as the Federal cavalry were mounted on northern bred horses, they might chase the Southerners for years and never catch them.

No army can get along without good horses, both for cavalry and artillery use, and that is why we would suggest to the farmers of Colorado to breed more army horses. By crossing the thoroughbred stallion with our range mares that weigh 950 pounds to 1,100 pounds, there can be produced the ideal cavalry horse. The heavy Percheron crossed with our common mares would produce the artillery horse.

Colorado is the ideal place to produce the army horse, for several reasons:

First: Because the horses grown here have harder bone and feet, as well as greater lung power, superinduced by the dry climate of the plains. There is everything to be said in favor of the breeding of army horses, and nothing against it.

Second: Our range bred horses can endure more and go farther on less feed than horses bred in the states east of us.

Third: We can mature our horses cheaper than other States.

In this connection, we submit the following statistics from the Union Stock Yards, Denver, Colorado: In the last two weeks there has been sold to foreign countries, 1,500 head of horses. Of this number, 1,200 were cavalry horses, height not to exceed 15.2, weight about 1,000 to 1,100 pounds, age from 5 to 9 years, average price to the breeder, \$127.00; 300 were gunners or artillery horses, height 15.2 to 16, weight 1,150 to 1,400 pounds, age 5 to 9 years, average price to breeder, \$152.00. As stated, 1,500 head have already been bought and shipped, and they are still buying about 100 to 125 head per day, and hope to obtain in Denver 3,000 or 4,000 head. These horses were all bred and raised in Colorado, which means that for this class of horses alone Colorado has to date received \$200,000.

The breeders of Colorado represent an interest that has grown steadily for the past fifteen years, and will increase one hundred fold in the next five years, and there should and must be an unity of action among the people of the State to further our own interest. An effort must be made to get rid of the worthless stallions and mares. This can be done if you see that the laws of Colorado are enforced, as all stallions must be licensed before they can be used for breeding purposes.

Don't buy a stallion just because he is imported.

Dont breed your mare to a horse lacking in individuality, no matter how well bred he may be.

Don't breed your mare to a bad-tempered horse, no matter how good a performer he may have been. There are sulkers enough in the world already, without adding to their number.

If a mare is 12 years old or over, mate her with a young stallion, say four or five years old.

Never breed to a stallion over eighteen years old. Never overtax a stallion's powers.

Always remember, "Like begets like," so don't breed to misfits.

Breed to absolutely sound stallions; any unsoundness denotes weakness.

Look to color, conformation, good eyes, good feet, plenty of bone. Remember unsoundness is a weakness, and prone to transmission.

The breeding of horses is so closely allied with racing that one cannot exist without the other. The value of all thoroughbred and standard bred horses is determined by trials of speed on the race track. Hence, racing is the incentive of every breeder. It may be for a money consideration, a medal or a ribbon, but all strive for the same goal: recognition of their colts by the public, and they render their decision by witnessing their contests on the race track, which determine their speed, stamina, manners and gameness. Hence, the necessity of racing throughout our country, as from such exhibitions the breeder can determine what strain or cross of blood he is desirous of perpetuating, and from such sires come our drivers, our saddlers, and our army horses. Twenty years ago Mr. J. B. McDonough imported the great thoroughbred, "Ormonde," paying for him \$150,000, so as to infuse new blood into our horses in America, and he lived to be amply repaid by his produce. Today Americans are selling thoroughbreds and standard breds to all the foreign nations, and we are rapidly approaching them in the art of breeding.

We hope, as the State Racing Commission of Colorado, to make our State equal to any, both in breeding and racing, and to try and inaugurate Futurities for our Colorado bred colts and fillies, and to create a standard of merit for our stallions and brood mares. We should all strive to breed better horses and continue in line breeding until we produce the ideal horse, and we assure you it will pay better than any other industry we know of. We have everything in Colorado for the advancement of the horse industry—climate, pure water, grasses and all of the grains, and one of the best markets in our country.

*"For if once we efface the charm of the chase
From the land, and uproot the stud,
Then good-bye to the Anglo-Saxon race,
And farewell to the Thoroughbred Blood!"*

Respectfully submitted,

J. A. BURNETT

J. L. BEAMAN

D. L. SILVER

A. P. DREW

M. J. DUNLEAVY.



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